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October 2, 1989

Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63105

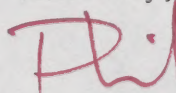
Dear Mr. Newman,

Your plate seems to be from one edition or another of John Jay Smith & John Fannon Watson's American Historical and Literary curiosities...No. 2.--find tp and plate enclosed. To my knowledge, this is the first edition of the second part.

You will notice our copy lacks a plate mark--none of the plates in this edition are numbered. The contents lists this plate as no. 16. There may be other variations difficult to determine accurately via photocopy. The title in the lower left of your copy appears to be a boldface version of the same type. The ornamentation around the "V" of "Virginia" appears rounder in your copy. You will notice other subtle variations as well, but I cannot tell if these are just vagaries among the sheets from the same run, different wear and tear on the different volumes, or different qualities of reproduction from our different copying machines. Another version, from new plates and typographically different, appears in the 1861 edition of this work as plate no. LIII.

There are at least two other editions that I do not have at hand to check, for 1850 and 1852. Possibly, one of these editions has plate numbers. However, I think the plate number in your copy looks rather modern.

Sincerely,



Phil Lapsansky





**Mercantile  
Money Museum**

Mercantile Tower  
Seventh & Washington  
St. Louis, Mo. 63101  
314-421-1819

Phillip Lapsansky  
Library Company of Philadelphia  
1314 Locust St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

August 12, 1993

Dear Mr. Lapsansky:

I am researching the biography of a Joseph J. Mickley (1799-1878) who was a maker and repairer of musical instruments in 19th century Philadelphia. He was also one of the first serious coin collectors in America. Mr. Eric Newman suggested that you might be a good person to contact in to this research. Mickley is said to have kept a diary, or variously, a travel diary which I have not had any luck in tracking down. Also there is said to be a memoir of Mickley written by a man named Bird. You wouldn't by any chance have either of those documents? Have you ever heard of them or would you possibly have any ideas where else I might inquiry about them?

Mickley came to live in Philadelphia from probably 1816-1817 but possibly as late as 1823. He lived most of his life (27 years) at a house on Market St. near Tenth. I have encountered a variety of conflicting information concerning Joseph Mickley and so even if you do not have the aforementioned documents I would appreciate any information you might have. He was active in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Franklin Institute, and was the first President of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, and also a seller of pianos. He was also involved in a shemem to restrike rare cents from dies he obtained as scrap from the Mint. There isn't wide agreement on who he collaborated with, but one source indicates it may have been one Edward Cogan of Boston or New York.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and I realize the information on Mickley may be very scarce.

Sincerely,

Thomas Serfass  
Curator